

Community Action!

The Newsletter of the Glasgow Residents Network - Issue 1

You're Sky-scrapped



“Regeneration chiefs have been forced to rethink their plans after residents and politicians branded it a carbuncle [...] Developer ISIS Waterside Regeneration has now withdrawn its planning application and put other housing projects around the Forth and Clyde Canal on hold”

[Evening Times, 27/07/06, reporting on a successful residents campaign against an unwanted luxury flat development]

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Victory for Riddrie!

Riddrie residents group, CARTAG, along with neighbours and

friends and other residents groups from across the city, have stopped the GHA and Council from erecting a scaffold outside a woman's house.

The scaffold was to be erected to carry out unwanted works that would have cost Mrs Gunning over £6500. GHA secured an agreement from a majority of the right-to-buy owners in the block, which they factor, to carry out the works without telling them how much it would cost, and was refusing to meet with owners after the costs had been learned to discuss the issue, despite the fact that owners have a legal entitlement to such a meeting.

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New Lifts Victory!

After a year and a half of campaigning by the local residents group, residents in Cedar Court in Woodside, Maryhill, are to be given new lifts

The old lifts were subject to periodic breakdown. Nearly half of all residents had been stuck in lifts, and over a third of households asked had concerns in using the lifts according to a survey by Cedar Tenants Association.



2nd Conference of the network

**Saturday, Oct. 21st,
from 2pm, Renfield St.
Stephens Church
260 Bath Street**

To bring together residents organisations from across the city to work towards greater co-operation and mutual aid and support

Let's improve our neighbourhoods and our city together !

Homeowners Fight Continues...

Right-to-buy homeowners across the city have been facing huge bills, which many

Hundreds show for heated meeting



MORE than 200 right-to-buy owners gathered in Knightswood on Monday night for a heated meeting with the Glasgow Housing Association (GHA). Campaigners, angry at being faced with huge bills of up to £1,000 for home improvement work, called for urgent action to address the situation which they say is 'absolutely

unacceptable'. At the meeting, campaigners made strong calls for a moratorium on all repair, lease and home improvements until an independent investigation is carried out. They are also calling for an extension to the 12 month period for payment of bills to be put in place.

simply cannot afford to pay as the GHA factoring service seeks to increase its revenue from them.

There has been a significant amount of resistance to these bills from local residents groups across the city for some time now but

over the past few months, as more and more areas are affected by huge bills, a citywide campaign has gotten underway, which has seen several massive meetings with hundreds attending, a demonstration in the Trongate outside GHA's offices, protests and attempts in some areas to forcibly stop GHA from carrying out the unwanted works.

This has resulted in some small concessions from the GHA, but no firm commitments. These concessions, while they demonstrate that the GHA is concerned about the level of community opposition and the number of residents groups which have started to join forces over the issue, fall far short of what owners

are demanding. So the fight is sure to continue, until homeowners get a just solution to the overcharging.



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Residents Surveys Demonstrate Anger

In two separate areas of the city – residents association surveys have demonstrated that people are increasingly dissatisfied and angry at the treatment they have been receiving from stock transfer landlord, the GHA.

Maxwell Residents Association, in Pollokshields, found that people were very unhappy about the quality of service they had received as tenants and were angry too about works that had been carried out in their home. In one case a 'new kitchen' that had been fitted to an elderly lady's home had resulted in her having difficulty reaching into drawers and opening her windows.

Mary, 86, faces court over GHA's £1000 repair bill

AN 86-YEAR-OLD woman is facing court to contest a Glasgow Housing Association (GHA) bill for £1,000 for repairs to her flat. Mary, who lives in a three-bedroom flat in the city, says the bill is 'absolutely outrageous' and that she cannot afford to pay it. She is now facing a court battle to challenge the bill. Mary says she has been a tenant for 20 years and that the GHA has been carrying out a lot of work on her flat, but she has never been consulted about the work. She says she has been told that the work is necessary for the flat to be let, but she does not agree with the GHA's assessment of the work. She says she has been told that the work is necessary for the flat to be let, but she does not agree with the GHA's assessment of the work. She says she has been told that the work is necessary for the flat to be let, but she does not agree with the GHA's assessment of the work.

Protesters join Mary and Catherine outside the court

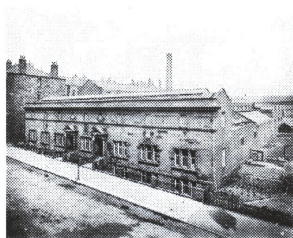
Protesters joined Mary and Catherine outside the court on Monday. They were joined by other residents who were also facing bills from the GHA. The protesters were holding signs and banners, and they were shouting slogans. They were also singing songs and playing music. The protesters were very angry at the GHA and they were determined to win their case. They were also determined to help other residents who were facing similar bills. They were also determined to stop the GHA from carrying out any more work on their flats without their consent. They were also determined to force the GHA to pay for the work that they had carried out on their flats.

In Woodside, Maryhill, Cedar Tenants Association found that 80% of respondents were dissatisfied with the facilities for kids in their street and that two thirds of the respondents also felt that rent levels were too high or raised questions about rent levels. Responses also showed that the tap water was undrinkable, and that half of respondents had problems running their washing machines due to low water pressure. Only 30% could state that the GHA listens and reacts to their problems.

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We Will Swim Again

balloons, bric-a-brac, fun, live music, homebaking, pakora, face painting . . .



Govanhill Baths Trust have been offered a 99 year lease to open the

baths and create a healthy living centre with its three pools – there is only one catch they have to raise over £5 million!

So what did the Trust do? They decided to hold a party, a Street Party, on Saturday 16th September, to celebrate and start getting the cash together to open Govanhill baths.

It was on 29th March 2001 that Glasgow City Council closed Govanhill baths without proper consultation. A huge campaign followed to get the decision reversed. When it became clear that GCC were not prepared to do the right thing, a community now united was very disappointed. So the campaign continued the struggle for the relaunch of this well-loved facility by transforming itself into a charity to work for the relaunch of this well-loved facility.

The aims of the charity are compatible with the Scottish Executive's policy on both sport and health. It also has the support of some local politicians and health professionals as well as architects. There is also

an affiliation to the local community council.

The lack of local amenities is a source of great anger and frustration to locals as well as those from further afield. Govanhill baths represent a focal point for people from all walks of life - a meeting place for new residents to the area and it is a tremendous inspiration, with links across the country and the world. If you or anyone you know can help the baths trust please call 07976718111 today... "we will swim again."

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Cumlodden Drive : Citywide March



On the 27th of September, a march was held in Maryhill, as part of the emerging Glasgow Residents Network's campaign to see Local Housing Organisations which have been mistreating tenants shown up and brought into line

through targetted demonstrations.

Residents of the Cumlodden Estate in Maryhill have been the subject of years of neglect by their landlord, the GHA,

Sighthill United Tenants And Residents Association, Cedar Tenants Association, Carntyne and Riddrie Tenants Action Group, as well as community activists from across the city, and former Cumlodden residents angry at the state of their old scheme came to support the march.

The march comes just after 70 local residents submitted a letter of protest after the GHA broke their promise to provide apex roofs to address the serious dampness in residents homes.

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For Right-To-Buy Homeowners

On the 28th of September a protest lobby of over 60 Glasgow residents took place, with three demands, a payment extension scheme

longer than 12 months taking into account financial circumstances. The second was for a moratorium on payments, court cases and all home improvement works until an independent financial investigations carried out on the GHA's home improvement programme. The third demand was for a revision of all homeowners' deeds of conditions ensuring more rights for homeowners.



The protest also highlighted the fact that tenants being provided with home improvements will have to pay for them through higher rents from 2008

Your local residents group is:

Tel:

Email:

Where do I sign up?



- Are you involved in a local organisation such as a tenants or residents association, committee or your community council?
- Do you want to know more about what residents groups do across the city?
- Or do you want to know more about how to go about setting up a residents association in your area?

GET IN TOUCH TODAY!



TOGETHER WE'RE STRONGER!

Call us on :-

07976 718111

or email us on :-
agahst2003@hotmail.com